

## Northumbria Region u3a

### Minutes of the Zoom Committee Meeting

21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

From 14.00 – 16.00

**Present:** - Cecilia Coulson (CC), Theresa Mulkerrin (TM), Moira Stokoe (MS), Dawn Tweddle (DT), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Ted Watt (TW), Peter Barnett (PB), Ann Carr (AC), Sandi Rickerby (SR), Jean Cubbin (JC), Mary Barlow (MEB).

**Visitor:** - K Clegg (KC)

CC welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced KC who will be joining the National Council with JC when it comes into existence in April.

**Minutes:** - TW proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be accepted as an accurate record and seconded by PB. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

**Matters arising:** - DT asked how are subscriptions collected. TM replied that a letter is composed giving details of the subscription rates which is then sent to PB to circulate to all u3as in the region. JC and SR pointed out that there is no obligation for u3as to pay this subscription to Region.

**Storage Reports:** - Unfortunately, we are no closer to resolving this issue and the issue will be brought up at the next quarterly meeting.

#### Reports

**Chair (CC)** – Report circulated.

SR asked what CC does when she visits a u3a. CC answered she informs them of what is going on in the region, invites them to quarterly meetings, chats with members, answers any questions. Also she tells them about the Facebook page, website and Messenger. CC also explains that Region isn't on a pedestal and that Committee Members are volunteers, as are all members of the u3a movement.

**Secretary (MEB)** – Arrangements are in hand for the AGM regarding notices and nomination forms etc.

**Treasurer (TM)** – Reports circulated.

AC asked if the quiz will be given £250 as previous. TM replied that events are to be self-funded although region will make up any shortfall. CC explained that the £250 received was from 25 teams that are taking part in the North Quiz, each team paying £10.

**Events (CC)** – Report circulated.

Boldon Auction House – MS and TM will see to the registration and collection of the fee which the Action House asked if it would be donated to the Peoples Kitchen.

Canva Workshop – Face to face Workshop to be arranged.

Quiz – 25 teams registered to date.

Hopetown Darlington – Flyers circulated.

Victoria Tunnel – Flyers circulated.

Raising the profile of the u3a Event at the Metro Centre – Possible date 7<sup>th</sup> November as the footfall significantly increases towards Christmas. CC to investigate areas available as we may not be able to use the Exhibition area. It was suggested we ask about the space outside Marks and Spencer.

Summer Day School 2026 – CC to arrange meeting with David Cook Events co-ordinator at Sunderland University. CC and a few other Event Team members to visit Ushaw College to look at venue.

**Communications (PB)** – Continuing to update the website.

It was noted that the Messenger when it was published had a significant number of hits followed by the Home Page.

It seems EE/BT are having problems with several btinternet.com email accounts being hacked.

**Messenger (MEB)** – Preparations are under way for the April issue.

**Trustees Report (JC)** – Circulated.

JC was asked what the Nominations Committee does and she replied that the application forms when received are scrutinised to see applicants meet the required criteria.

**January Quarterly Meeting** – Numbers are still only half what they were before Covid despite changing to half a day and using different venues around the region. The venue at the Metro Centre was good and it was suggested we use same at some point in the future.

**April AGM** - Seaham Town Hall has been booked.

The catering will need to be finalised at the March meeting.

TM will prepare the Google form for registration and food after our next meeting.

PB confirms he has the directions to the venue for the website.

DT confirms that Neil Storey has been booked for £65 and her husband will collect him from the railway station and bring him to the venue. The talk will be on Jack the Ripper.

Notices and nomination forms have been prepared for the website.

**Number of regional meetings for members to attend** – PB suggested we leave this for the next Chair to arrange and this was agreed.

**Artificial Intelligence** – Dr Leslie Mitchell, Prudhoe u3a will be arranging a face-to-face workshop. If members are interested an AI Network could possibly be arranged.

### **Any Other Business**

SR discussed in some detail the future organization of the movement as FFTF is implemented at the national level, and how they anticipate that this will impact the various regions. Once the Council is in place it is hoped they will proceed at some pace in firming up details which will then be circulated. All Regional Committee Members discussed some of the implications that could possibly affect Northumbria Region u3a e.g. having to change the Region's constitution, losing 3 u3a members in the Yorkshire area.

Next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 at 14.00

<b>Name</b>	C Coulson	<b>Position</b>	Chair	<b>Date</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025
<b>Name</b>	M Barlow	<b>Position</b>	Secretary	<b>Date</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025